TO THE KING
And
BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
In PARLIAMENT *Assembled.*

THE *Proposal* contained in this Paper is (with submission) conceived of general advantage to the Kingdom, and thereby sufficiently recommended to obtain admission to present it self before you, whose Providence and Justice secure the Proposer of a readiness to embrace and promote whatever may improve the Welfare of the Publick: 'Tis his part to make the Proposal appear of advantage to your Common-Interest, wherein the welfare of the Publick consists.

THE PROPOSAL.

THAT an *Act of Parliament* may pass for building and fitting out with expedition a Fleet of 500 Busses of about 70 Tuns burthens a piece, to be imploy'd in fishing for Herrings, Cod and Ling, in his *Majesties* Seas; and the profits to be disposed for the increasing of the said Fishing-Vessels to the number of 2000 or thereabouts, as it will be thought necessary; And after the paying of publick debts, and the defraying of all necessary charges, the property of the said Fleet to be setled in the *Crown*.

THE ADVANTAGES.

A *Fleet* of two thousand Busses will imploy yearly at Sea, at 15 Men to a Busse 30000 Men! besides at least 30000 more at Land in the service of the Fleet: It will save the Kingdom 300000 *l. per Annum* paid yearly to the *Dutch* for Fish taken by them in His *Majesties* Seas, and sold to the *English*— besides as much more in Taxes to the Poor. The first year the said 2000 Busses Sails, may (with God's blessing) defray the whole charge of Building, Tackle, Victualling, Fitting out, Officers and Seamens wages for that year, with an *overplus* of 1835033 *l.* 06 *s.* 8 *d.* and will every year after, *Communibus annis*, as long as the Fleet lasts, yield His *Majesty* the clear profit of at least 2644033 *l.* 06 *s.* 08 *d.* Which is demonstrated as followeth:

				l.	*s.* *d.*
Fish usually taken in Busses of 70 Tuns, *Communibus annis*, is at least	Herrings 100 last worth *de claro* at least	1000		2250.	00. 00.
	Cod 15000 worth *de claro* at least	0450			
	Ling 10000 worth *de claro* at least	0800			
The *Charge* of a Busse 70 Tuns the first year (ready to be demonstrated) will not exceed	Building, and fitting for sail		0403 10 00.	1332	09 08.
	Victualling, and furnishing with lasting and wasting Commodities		0695 18 08.		
	Officers, and Seamen's Wages		0233 01 00.		
			Remains profit *de claro* each Busse	0917	10 04.
Which for 2000 Busses for the first year will be clear profit				1835033	06 08.
			l. *s.* *d.*		
Profit of each Busse after the first year as above			2250 00 00.		
Charge of Fitting, Victualling, Sallaries and Wages			0928 19 08.		
		Profit de claro of each Busse	1321 00 04.		
Which from 2000 Busses will amount to *per Annum*				2647033	06 8.

This *Fleet* will be a Nursery of Seamen, no less necessary than useful for asserting His *Majesties* Dominion of the Seas, and the Rights of his Crown, in Regulating Trade, against the encroachments of Strangers.

The *Profits* of this *Fleet* will lessen the necessity of *Taxes* for Support of the Government, and will improve the value of Land, and the Wealth of the Nation by saving 300000 pound now yearly exported by the *Hollanders* for Fish bought of them, and by the Importation of Coyn from abroad by Vent of Fish, taken and sold by His *Majesties* Subjects; the *Monopoly* of Fish taken by the *Hollander* in His *Majesties* Seas, being one main support of that Government.

As to Men and Materials for the *Fleet*, there will be sufficient of both, unless Money be wanting to carry on the Design.

1. The *Interest* of the *King* doth concern every particular Person, his undertaking of it is for every Man's advantage; whatsoever he gets thereby saves the Nation so much in their purses: For if the *King* gains as much by this as will maintain his *Crown* and *Dignity*, His *Majesty* may in time come to have the less need of *Parliamentary-Taxes*. He may also alleviate his *Customs* as low as any Nation whatsoever, which will bring the Trade of *Holland*, *&c.* into this Kingdom, invite all Ingenuous Manufactors into the Nation, as well as rich Men into this Kingdom, and the rest of His *Majesties* Dominions, and also will preserve the Peace of this Nation from being disturbed and violated more than private Persons or Corporative Bodies will or can do in their undertaking of it, who cannot protect the *Fishing-Fleet* from the attemps and injury of Strangers, and may be apt upon evill instigations and discontents to strenghthen either domestick or forreign Enemies, with their power both of shipping and Men [illegible] this way; and had it not been removed by supplyes of [illegible] less probable grounds of advantage than here are proposed, it had lost to that *Crown*, as it did to this and to the *French*, the first discovery of the *Mynes* in the *Indies*; But this is addressed to His *Majesty* and His *Parliament*, for raising six hundred thousand pounds, whereof one hundred thousand pounds to be imploy'd for Docks, and for Store-houses and Wharfs, adjoyning one to the other, that the goods may be convey'd from the Wharfs to the Store-houses, without the charge of Carting (which said sum will be demonstrated an ample Fund) to carry on and compleat this Design worthy their Encouragement, and reserved by *Providence* (after the weak Essays of former times) to be perfected under the Auspitious Government of the best of *Princes*, and wisest of *Parliaments*, who cannot neither want either power or will to compleat what appears so clearly and eminently advantagious for the publick good and the interest of the Kingdom, and in order thereto to raise the Fund proposed, and to secure the Imployment of it to the use it is designed for.

3. The *Proposers* are ready when commanded to demonstrate at large the facility of bringing the design to effect, the probability and greatness of its advantages when effected, and the necessity of it in order to any considerable Improvement of the Wealth, Strength and Honour of the Nation: And as to the Objection, they doubt not but to clear all can be made against it, except that of the want of six hundred thousand pounds to carry on the *Work*; yet they conceive they have already removed this Objection, by having demonstrated the Return of this *Fund* with so great an encrease into the Publick Coffers, and presented that Demonstration to them who have power to give and lay out the Money proposed, but cannot lay it out to better advantage, for improving their and their Posterities Safety, Honour and Wealth, than by bringing to perfection this *Design*; which is not the Project of a Privat-brain, but *An Enterprize of Publick good*, approved by *Queen Elizabeth*, and upon solemn and mature deliberation, embraced and encouraged by *King James*, *King Charles the First*, and His now *Majesty*, and their several *Privy-Counsels*, and furthered by several *Grants* under the *Great-Seal of England*, in the respective Reigns of the *Princes* last mentioned; And by this present *Parliament* by a Vote of the *Honourable House of COMMONS* 17 *February* 1670: That a *Bill* should be brought in for Encouragement of the *Fishery*.

S. *WATSON*.

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